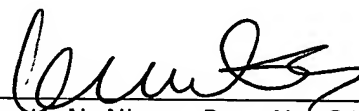


Remarks/Arguments:

Prior to examination, please amend the application as set forth above. These amendments remove reference numbers, correct improper multiple dependent claims and correct minor syntax errors. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth N. Nigon, Reg. No. 31,549
Attorney for Applicants

KNN/tmb/vj

Dated: February 17, 2004

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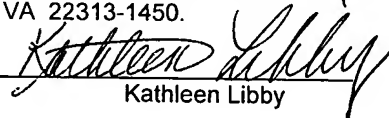
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I hereby certify that this paper and fee are being deposited, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 and with sufficient postage, using the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above and that the deposit is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Kathleen Libby